

REGULAR MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL  
December 12, 2011

Deputy Mayor Antonia Moran called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Kochenburger, Moran, Paulhus, Ryan, Schaefer, Shapiro  
Excused: Keane, Lindsey, Paterson

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to approve the minutes of the November 28, 2011 Special meeting as presented. The motion passed with all in favor except Mr. Schaefer who abstained. Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to approve the minutes of the November 28, 2011 meeting as presented. The motion passed with all in favor except Mr. Schaefer who abstained

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Chuck Boster, Sycamore Drive, thanked the Town for trimming the vines on the east side of South Eagleville Road and asked the Council to support additional landscaping along that section. Mr. Boster also expressed interest in additional FOI training.

Mary Hirsch, Courtyard Lane, complimented the Town and Mansfield Community Center staff on their efforts during the last 2 storms. Ms. Hirsch noted the increased level of usage of the Community Center for Social Services activities and while she is in support of these uses she urged the Council to increase the funding necessary to provide these services.

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, asked a number of questions concerning the proposed Community Playground including the definition of community connectiveness, the need for an additional playground and the funding source. Ms. Wassmundt also urged the Council to set aside funds for future repairs to the Community Center pool.

David Freudmann, Eastwood Road, identified three areas of concern he would like addressed including the agreement and use of a consultant for the proposed hydroelectric purchase plan, the regulations regarding the Natchaug River Basin and the Region 19 budget.

Mike Sikoski, Windham, questioned the distribution of wood cut down by the Public Works Department after the last 2 storms.

IV. REPORT OF TOWN MANAGER

In addition to his written report the Town Manager addressed some of the questions raised by the public. The Town has consistently advocated for fiscal restraint with both Boards of Education. Freedom of Information training sessions, sponsored by CCM, are available to board and commission members throughout the year. No agreement concerning the proposed Town purchase of hydroelectric power has been authorized by the Council. The Manager will bring any proposed agreement back to the Council for approval. Pool replacement plans will be discussed in the CIP budget process. The Town Manager will review the dispersal of the wood cut down after the storms.

V. REPORTS AND COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Ryan noted the Region is rated somewhere in the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile of the most costly school systems in the state, not the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Mr. Kochenburger clarified that stop work order for Empire Construction had nothing to do with the issue of undocumented workers.

December 12, 2011

Mr. Shapiro thanked the Manager and staff for the Freedom of Information sessions. Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to move Items 4 and 5, both of which are presentations, as the next items of business. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. Community/Campus Relations

Sergeant Richard Cournoyer presented a review of the proactive actions and enforcement efforts made this past semester. Council member congratulated Sgt. Cournoyer on his approach and results.

2. Community Water/Wastewater Issues

Director of Planning and Economic Development Linda Painter and Director of Public Works Lon Hultgren updated the Council on the status of the Four Corners water and sewer project including the well testing at the Eagleville Preserve site. Information on previous uses of the Eagleville Preserve area will be part of the EIE report. Town Manager Matt Hart distributed a letter from Kurt Heidinger regarding questions about the water supplied to the Town by UConn. (Letter attached) Councilor Shapiro recused himself from all discussions of this issue as a result of his previous position as Assistant Attorney General for the University. The Town Manager will present a draft response addressing the issues raised in Mr. Heidinger's correspondence at the next Council meeting and will provide the University with a copy of the letter.

3. UConn Landfill, Long-Term Monitoring Program

No significant issues were noted by Director of Health Rob Miller.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

4. Presentation: Natchaug River Basin Conservation Program

Parks Coordinator Jennifer Kaufman and Open Space Preservation Committee member Sue Westa provided information on the Natchaug River Basin and thanked the Council for their support of the Conservation Compact. A short film on the area was presented.

5. Presentation: Community Playground

Human Services Director Kevin Grunwald and Mansfield Advocates for Children's Playground Subcommittee Chair Sara Anderson presented conceptual information on the proposed playground and asked for Council input. Ms. Anderson described the identified need for an accessible, centrally located playground which will increase community connectivity and briefly outlined the possible locations and building plans of the Committee.

6. ConnDOT Construction Agreement for the Laurel Lane Bridge

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to approve the following resolution: RESOLVED, that Matthew W. Hart, Town Manager, be, and hereby is, authorized to sign the agreement entitled: *Agreement between the State of Connecticut and the Town of Mansfield for the Construction, Inspection and Maintenance for the Replacement of the Laurel Lane Bridge (Bridge No. 05366) over the Mount Hope River Utilizing Federal Funds from the Highway Bridge Program.*

Motion passed unanimously.

7. Application to Regional Performance Incentive Program

The final application draft is being prepared by Coventry and will be an agenda item for Council deliberation in January 2012.

8. Salary Budget Transfers – FY 2011/12

Mr. Ryan, Chair of the Finance Committee offered the following resolution:

Resolved, effective December 12, 2011, to adopt the salary budget transfers for FY 2011/12, as presented by the Director of Finance in her correspondence dated December 7, 2011.

Motion passed unanimously.

9. Capital Improvement Program Closeouts/Adjustments

Mr. Ryan, Chair of the Finance Committee moved, effective December 12, 2011, to approve the adjustments to the Capital Projects fund, as presented by the Director of Finance in her correspondence dated December 7, 2011.

Motion passed unanimously.

VIII. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

No comments

IX. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Mr. Kochenburger, Chair of the Committee on Committees, reported the Committee has met, set their meeting dates for the year and will continue to make timely recommendations to the Council. Overall, he reported, the list of Board and Commission members looks good.

Ms. Moran, Chair of the Personnel Committee, reported the Committee has begun work on simplifying the Town Manager's evaluation process and continues to work on the Ethics Ordinance. Ms. Moran also reported the Community Quality of Life Committee has reduced the number of 2012 scheduled meetings as the majority of their work has been accomplished. The Committee will be asking the Council to revisit their charge.

X. PETITIONS, REQUEST AND COMMUNICATIONS

10. Connecticut Freedom of Information Commission re: Docket #FIC 2011-178

11.D. Morse re: Resignation from the Committee on Community Quality of Life

Ms. Moran thanked Mr. Morse for his contributions to the Committee.

XI. FUTURE AGENDAS

An easement to connect the utilities along Dog Lane from the Town to Leyland Alliance and EDR will be added to a future agenda following an 8-24 referral to PZC.

Mr. Shapiro requested an Executive Session be scheduled on January 9, 2011 to discuss pending litigation with regards to the upcoming Freedom of Information Commission hearing.

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to move into Executive Session to discuss the sale or purchase of real property, in accordance with CGS§1-200(6)(D).

Motion passed unanimously.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Sale or purchase of real property, in accordance with CGS§1-200(6) (D)

Present: Kochenburger, Moran, Paulhus, Ryan, Schaefer, Shapiro

Also included: Town Manager Matt Hart and Director of Planning and Development Linda Painter.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The Council reconvened in regular session.

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to adjourn the meeting

Motion passed unanimously.

Antonia Moran, Deputy Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

December 12, 2011